

Ruben Gonzalez

Rated by many of the top pink ball players of the 1970's as one of the best pink-ballers of that time, Ruben Gonzalez entered his first AAU National "hardball" 1-Wall Handball Tournament in 1975, and lost by a single point in the third game to one of the top-ranked, seeded players, Neal Bocian.

Yet that same year, partnered with Al Serafino, he reached the finals of the AAU National Doubles losing two close games to the monster National Hall of Fame team of Ulbrich/Wisotsky. The very next year Ruben won the AAU National 1-wall Singles Championship by defeating National Hall of Famer Mark Levine in a nail-biting close contest. In '77 he was National USHA Singles Runner-up losing to Hall of Famer Al Torres, but he did win the NY State Singles Championship in that same year. Gonzalez' major attribute was speed. There seemed nothing he couldn't run-down. Seemingly unending endurance enhanced his prowess. By '78 he was gone from the handball scene, and rapidly developing into an excellent racquetball player. Within a year or two his 1-wall skills added to his natural talents made him the class of the racquetball world, a champion who held the singles title for many years. Ruben was a class act, a gentleman on and off the court.

PLAYERS OF DISTINCTION